

APHIS Respirator Fact Sheet

Approved Types, OSHA Regulations, and Fit-Test Protocols

The following respirator types are approved for use by APHIS personnel:

APHIS only uses the N-95 respirators listed below and APHIS personnel can only wear the N95 respirators listed below if they have been medically cleared to wear a respirator, fit tested with one of the respirators listed below, and trained.

3M 8210
3M 8511
3M 8271
Moldex 2700

If none of the respirators listed above meets the APHIS criteria (TSI PortaCount Fit Factor of 100) for a proper fit then that person can not wear an N95 respirator and must be fit -tested with a higher protection providing respirator, i.e., an N100 or P100 respirator. The APHIS N100 and P100 respirators are listed below.

3M 8233
3M 8293
Moldex 2360

If the employee can not meet the APHIS criteria (TSI PortaCount Fit Factor of 500) for a proper fit with any of the listed N100 or P100 respirators the individual can not wear an N100 or P100 and must be fit-tested with the next higher level of respirator protection, i.e., the 1/2 face Air Purifying Respirator (APR). The APHIS 1/2 face APR respirators are listed below.

North 7700
MSA Comfo Classic
MSA Advantage 200

If the employee can not meet the APHIS criteria (TSI PortaCount Fit Factor of 1000) for a proper fit with any of the listed 1/2 face APR respirators the individual can not wear an 1/2 Face APR and must be fit-tested with the next higher level of respiratory protection, i.e., the Full Face Air Purifying Respirator (APR). The APHIS Full Face APR respirators are listed below. Please note that PPQ personnel required to wear SCBA must be fit tested using the TSI PortaCount and obtain a fit factor of 5000. The SCBA used by APHIS is the MSA SCBA, thereby allowing for uniformity across APHIS.

MSA Millenium
Survivair 4100
MSA Advantage 3000

If the employee can not meet the APHIS criteria (TSI PortaCount Fit Factor of 5000) for a proper fit with any of the listed Full Face APR respirators the individual can not wear an Full Face APR and must be fit-tested with the next higher level of respiratory protection, i.e., the Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR). The APHIS PAPR is listed below.

3M Breathe Easy 10 PAPR

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(Continued)

APHIS respirator selection and usage guidelines are based on the following OSHA regulations:

1910.134(a)(2)

Respirators shall be provided by the employer when such equipment is necessary to protect the health of the employee. The employer shall provide the respirators which are applicable and suitable for the purpose intended. The employer shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a respiratory protection program which shall include the requirements outlined in paragraph (c) of this section.

1910.134(c)(1)(ii)

Medical evaluations of employees required to use respirators;

1910.134(c)(3)

The employer shall designate a program administrator who is qualified by appropriate training or experience that is commensurate with the complexity of the program to administer or oversee the respiratory protection program and conduct the required evaluations of program effectiveness.

1910.134(c)(4)

The employer shall provide respirators, training, and medical evaluations at no cost to the employee.

General requirements.

1910.134(d)(1)(i)

The employer shall select and provide an appropriate respirator based on the respiratory hazard(s) to which the worker is exposed and workplace and user factors that affect respirator performance and reliability.

1910.134(d)(1)(ii)

The employer shall select a NIOSH-certified respirator. The respirator shall be used in compliance with the conditions of its certification.

1910.134(d)(1)(iii)

The employer shall identify and evaluate the respiratory hazard(s) in the workplace; this evaluation shall include a reasonable estimate of employee exposures to respiratory hazard(s) and an identification of the contaminant's chemical state and physical form. Where the employer cannot identify or reasonably estimate the employee exposure, the employer shall consider the atmosphere to be IDLH.

1910.134(d)(1)(iv)

The employer shall select respirators from a sufficient number of respirator models and sizes so that the respirator is acceptable to, and correctly fits, the user.

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(Continued)

APHIS respirator fit test protocols are based on OSHA- Fit Testing Procedures (Appendix A to § 1910.134), which are summarized below:

A. Fit Testing Procedures -- General Requirements

The employer shall conduct fit testing using the following procedures. The requirements in this appendix apply to all OSHA-accepted fit test methods, both QLFT and QNFT.

1. The test subject shall be allowed to pick the most acceptable respirator from a sufficient number of respirator models and sizes so that the respirator is acceptable to, and correctly fits, the user.
2. Prior to the selection process, the test subject shall be shown how to put on a respirator, how it should be positioned on the face, how to set strap tension and how to determine an acceptable fit. A mirror shall be available to assist the subject in evaluating the fit and positioning of the respirator. This instruction may not constitute the subject's formal training on respirator use, because it is only a review.
3. The test subject shall be informed that he/she is being asked to select the respirator that provides the most acceptable fit. Each respirator represents a different size and shape, and if fitted and used properly, will provide adequate protection.
4. The test subject shall be instructed to hold each chosen face piece up to the face and eliminate those that obviously do not give an acceptable fit.
5. The more acceptable face pieces are noted in case the one selected proves unacceptable; the most comfortable mask is donned and worn at least five minutes to assess comfort. Assistance in assessing comfort can be given by discussing the points in the following item A.6. If the test subject is not familiar with using a particular respirator, the test subject shall be directed to don the mask several times and to adjust the straps each time to become adept at setting proper tension on the straps.
6. Assessment of comfort shall include a review of the following points with the test subject and allowing the test subject adequate time to determine the comfort of the respirator:
 - (a) Position of the mask on the nose
 - (b) Room for eye protection
 - (c) Room to talk
 - (d) Position of mask on face and cheeks
7. The following criteria shall be used to help determine the adequacy of the respirator fit:
 - (a) Chin properly placed;
 - (b) Adequate strap tension, not overly tightened;
 - (c) Fit across nose bridge;
 - (d) Respirator of proper size to span distance from nose to chin;

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(e) Tendency of respirator to slip;

(f) Self-observation in mirror to evaluate fit and respirator position.

8. The test subject shall conduct a user seal check, either the negative and positive pressure seal checks described in Appendix B-1 of this section or those recommended by the respirator manufacturer which provide equivalent protection to the procedures in Appendix B-1. Before conducting the negative and positive pressure checks, the subject shall be told to seat the mask on the face by moving the head from side-to-side and up and down slowly while taking in a few slow deep breaths. Another face piece shall be selected and retested if the test subject fails the user seal check tests.

9. The test shall not be conducted if there is any hair growth between the skin and the face piece sealing surface, such as stubble beard growth, beard, mustache or sideburns which cross the respirator sealing surface. Any type of apparel which interferes with a satisfactory fit shall be altered or removed.

10. If a test subject exhibits difficulty in breathing during the tests, she or he shall be referred to a physician or other licensed health care professional, as appropriate, to determine whether the test subject can wear a respirator while performing her or his duties.

11. If the employee finds the fit of the respirator unacceptable, the test subject shall be given the opportunity to select a different respirator and to be retested.

12. Exercise regimen. Prior to the commencement of the fit test, the test subject shall be given a description of the fit test and the test subject's responsibilities during the test procedure. The description of the process shall include a description of the test exercises that the subject will be performing. The respirator to be tested shall be worn for at least 5 minutes before the start of the fit test.

13. The fit test shall be performed while the test subject is wearing any applicable safety equipment that may be worn during actual respirator use which could interfere with respirator fit.

For further information regarding APHIS' respirator policy, contact:

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